SUBJECT No. 49.

Thumb impressions.

Messrs. Sitharamaiya and Linge Gowda, Chikanayakanhalli taluk.

Summary of discussion.—The existing rules do not render the affixing of thumb marks compulsory where persons taking documents for registration refuse to do so. This gives room for fraud in cases in which the executant and the identifying witness are both illiterate. Orders may therefore be passed rendering it obligatory to affix thumb impressions when documents are presented for registration.

Reply of Government.—The present rule is all right and requires no change.

SUBJECT No. 50.

Visitors to lock-ups and lock-up officers.

Messrs. K. S. Santanam Iyengar, Closepet municipality, and T. Ramachandra Rao and K. Puttappa, Bangalore District Board.

Summary of discussion.—With a view to reduce cases of ill treatment of the accused while in police custody, a visitors' book may be maintained in every lock-up and respectable non-official gentlemen allowed to visit the lock-ups and note in the book any injuries that they may notice on the person of the accused and bring them to the notice of the local medical authority.

Reply of Government.—Not feasible for the present.

SUBJECT No. 51.

Separate lock-ups for females.

Messrs. Padmanna and K. Venkatasamaiya, Nanjangud taluk.

Summary of discussion.—There are no separate police lock-ups for male and female prisoners in many taluk headquarter stations. So it is prayed that separate lock-ups be constructed at an early date.

Reply of Government.—Will be done as far as possible. It is a question of funds.

SUBJECT No. 52.

Establishment of a reformatory school.

Mr. B. Venkatasamanna, Chitaldrug municipality.

Summary of discussion.—A reformatory school may be established for training of juvenile offenders.

Reply of Government.—There is no necessity at present. The question will be considered if there is any increase in the number of juvenile prisoners.

SUBJECT No. 53.

Investigation Centre Scheme.

(1) Messrs. B. Narasinga Rao, Seringapatam taluk; B. Ramanna, Krishnarajpete taluk; G. Narasimhachar and Ganjam Venkataramana Setti, T. Narsipur taluk; Narain Setti and Venkataramanagowda, Kankanhalli taluk.

(2) Mr. Santhanam Iyengar, Closepet municipality.

Summary of discussion.—(1) The Investigation Centre Scheme is based no doubt on a sound principle that low paid subordinates should be deprived of the power to investigate cases, but it has not succeeded in carrying the principle to any appreciable extent. The pay of the Police Jamadars is still very low. The present method of investigation is by no means an improvement on its predecessor in important particulars. Delay in the receipt of information and the consequent delay in the arrival of the investigating officer at the scene of crime generally afford facilities for suppressing the true state of facts and substituting altogether a different story. The Police Daffadars who receive the first information feel no sort of responsibility in the matter and are indifferent towards the progress of the investigation. It is, therefore, prayed that improvements be affected to remedy the above defects.

(2) The pay of an investigating officer, who may be called a Sub-Inspector, should not be less than Rs. 50, and the Police Inspectors should not be paid less than Rs. 100.

Reply of Government.—Noted.

SUBJECT No. 54.

Police reports.

Mr. K. S. Santanam Iyengar, Closepet municipality.

Summary of discussion.—Some workable and reasonable time should be prescribed for the submission of A, B or C reports by the police, when cases are referred to them for investigation by Magistrates.

In British India only one month's time is allowed in such cases.

Mr. Santanam Iyengar represented that investigation of cases was being delayed for years together in many cases and that it was necessary to prescribe a time within which the Police should submit A and B reports, as has been done in some parts of British India.

Reply of Government.—Will be referred to the Inspector-General of Police.

SUBJECT No. 55.

Prevention of cattle lifting.

(*a*) Mr. Nadig Bhima Rao, Channagiri taluk.
(*b*) Messrs. T. Gundappa and Venkataranga Setty, Magadi taluk.

Summary of discussion.—(*a*) Cattle lifting is on the increase every day. The hides of the stolen cattle are taken to the nearest *mandi* and transported by railway, before their owner gets any reliable information as to the whereabouts of the cattle. As, for this reason, the wet skins of the deceased animals cannot be produced, it is not possible to successfully lodge any criminal complaints in such cases. It is therefore proposed that a regulation to place the trade in hides under proper control may be framed providing the following safeguards :—

(1) Every person who owns a shop (*mandi*) for trading in hides should obtain a license for the purpose.

(2) A register bearing the taluk seal and signed by the Taluk Amildar should be maintained by him to show the daily transactions.

(3) The shop-keeper should not receive any wet skin of a deceased animal unless it is accompanied by a permit signed by the patel and other principal residents of a village giving details as to the owner of the animal, the skin of which is brought to the shop.

(4) The wet skins already in the possession of the shop-keeper should once for all be entered at the commencement in this register.

(5) Every village patel should similarly maintain a register furnishing the details of the skins allowed by him to be exported from the village.